

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Fourth Suffolk Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Fourth Suffolk Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 19.4% (23,395) reside in the Fourth Suffolk Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (4,445) of Fourth Suffolk Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 82.3% of admissions from the Fourth Suffolk Representative District were male and 17.7% were female.
- Over 69.9% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 49.6% of admissions were white non-Latino, 28.6% were black non-Latino, 18.9% were Latino, 0.3% were Asians, and 2.5% were other racial categories.
- 73.7% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 7.3% were married, and 11.7% reported not to be married now.
- 31.6% of admissions had less than high school education, 51.2% completed high school, and 17.2% had more than high school education.
- 10.3% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 61.9% of those admitted were homeless.
- 6.4% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

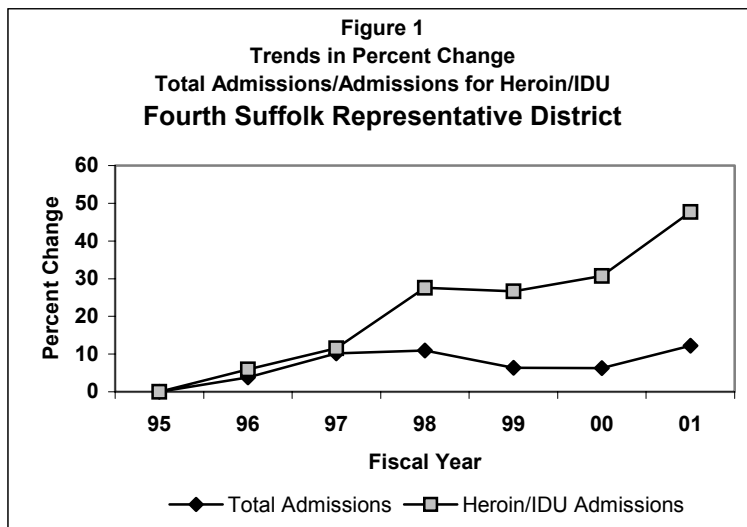
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Fourth Suffolk Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Fourth Suffolk Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	20,848	15,932	5,792	8,729	6,377	6,851	4,251
FY '96	21,647	16,140	5,686	8,375	6,309	7,380	4,377
FY '97	22,971	17,533	5,669	7,829	6,459	7,577	4,806
FY '98	23,131	17,032	5,515	7,068	5,338	8,612	5,556
FY '99	22,175	16,362	5,070	6,855	5,028	8,620	5,443
FY '00	22,159	16,119	4,893	6,418	4,591	8,889	5,621
FY '01	23,395	16,329	5,173	6,305	4,239	10,333	6,066

- Since FY 1995, residents of Fourth Suffolk Representative District reported a steady increase in heroin use, and a slight increase in alcohol use. Heroin use increased by 50% and alcohol use by 2.5%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting marijuana use decreased by 10%, cocaine by 27%, and crack use by 23%.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Fourth Suffolk Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 12.2% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 47.7%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Fourth Suffolk Representative District.

	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	51.7%	36.7%	2.6%	3.4%	3.8%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While heroin, cocaine, and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, alcohol as a primary drug was higher, and marijuana was lower within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000